NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

JULY 3 to JULY 8
THE MEMBERS OF THE
HOST AFFILIATE COMMITTEE
WELCOME YOU TO THE
78th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind
200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

John Berggren, Chairman
Convention Organization and Activities

Tracy Soforenko, President
National Federation of the Blind
of Virginia

Denise Valkema, President
National Federation of the Blind
of Florida

Jerad Nylin, President
National Federation of the Blind of Iowa

Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32819
866-996-9939
Welcome to the 78th annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind being held in Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. A detailed description of the layout of the hotel can be found immediately after the “Convention Notes,” which are at the end of the program listings. Check the “Convention Notes” for further information about a variety of convention topics. When you check in to the hotel, you will be asked to confirm your departure date. If you decide to leave earlier than the departure date you confirm when you check in, there may be a change fee.

Rookie Roundup

All first-time convention attendees are cordially invited to attend a reception from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the Panzacola Ballroom G-1, Level 1. President Riccobono and other Federation leaders will be on hand to welcome you to the convention and preview the week’s activities. Veteran conventioneers should urge all first-timers to attend this special event.

Inclusivity, Diversity, and Social Conduct

As an attendee at our convention, you not only represent yourself but also represent our organization. We want you to enjoy our time together and to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. Although we encourage members to socialize and have fun, the convention also provides a valuable opportunity to come together to continue the work of our organization, to learn about the important initiatives that we are involved with on local and national levels, and to plan our work for the future.

The National Federation of the Blind seeks to provide a convention environment in which diverse participants, including members, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers, may learn, network, and enjoy the company of friends and colleagues in an environment of mutual respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and uphold that atmosphere for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are therefore specifically prohibited:

- harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, physical appearance, or other group identity
- sexual harassment or intimidation, including unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact
• public drunkenness and associated behaviors (e.g., belligerence, yelling, hostility, destruction of property)

Participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all convention venues, including online arenas, social media, and convention social events. Participants who are asked to stop a behavior that the recipient considers hostile or harassing are expected to comply immediately.

For assistance or to report an incident, please call 443-457-3401. All reports will be fully investigated according to the steps outlined in our code of conduct. Based on the information found in the investigation, appropriate action will be taken and may involve staff, organization leaders, and legal counsel. Based on the circumstances, hotel security and/or law enforcement may become involved, when appropriate.

We are committed to diversity, equity, and the free expression of ideas. These principles have been delineated in our recently adopted code of conduct found at https://nfb.org/code-conduct.

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**PREREGISTRATION AND ON-SITE REGISTRATION**

Registration activities take place in the Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function area, Level 1 beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, and at other times as listed throughout the week. All convention attendees (both local and out-of-town) are asked to register. Those who preregistered for convention may pick up their registration packets in the area designated “Preregistration.” Those who did not preregister may go to the area designated “Registration.” Please have your check or cash ready to pay the registration fee of $30 per person; **we cannot accept credit cards at registration.** Convention registration is a requirement for door prize eligibility and a number of other convention activities. We condition rates for hotel rooms on proof of registration, including the showing of an NFB registration badge, if requested.

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**EXHIBIT HALL AND INDEPENDENCE MARKET**

The Exhibit Hall and the NFB Independence Market are located in Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1. There is a special sponsor-only exhibitor preview for convention attendees on Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Exhibit Hall hours of operation are:**

- **Wednesday** 9:00 to 11:00 AM (sponsors only)
- **Wednesday** 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- **Thursday** 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday Noon to 1:45 PM and 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday Noon to 1:45 PM (final opportunity to visit the Exhibit Hall)

Independence Market hours of operation are:
- Wednesday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Thursday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- Friday Noon to 1:45 PM
- Saturday Noon to 1:45 PM (final opportunity to visit the Market)

KNFB READER VERSION 3.0 FOR iOS IS HERE!
KNFB Reader uses the power of digital photography to read print on the go, using your iOS, Android, or Windows 10 phone or tablet or your Windows 10 computer. Come see this award-winning, life-changing technology in our demonstration room on Wednesday or Thursday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Wekiwa 7, Level 2. See the new features for iOS version 3.0. Access that inaccessible print or PDF by purchasing your copy of KNFB Reader Enterprise in the Independence Market—just point, shoot, and read!

SPECIAL ATTENTION ITEMS
- The Presidential Suite (13217); Dr. Maurer’s Suite (13216); and the Host Affiliate’s Suite (11230) are all open during much of the convention. All are welcome to come to these suites to visit. Appointments to meet with President Riccobono may be made at the Presidential Suite.

- Banquet tickets may be purchased for $70 by cash or check at the on-site registration area. No tickets will be available after 2:00 p.m. on Friday. At the banquet ticket exchange table you may make arrangements to reserve a specific seat for yourself or for a group of up to ten people. On the evening of the banquet, tickets will be required to enter the ballroom and will be collected at the tables. Tickets may be exchanged for vegetarian or kosher meals at the banquet ticket exchange table if done so by 2:00 p.m. on Friday.

- Banquet ticket exchange will be available across from the Sebastian registration counter at the following times:
  - Thursday Noon to 2:00 PM
  - Friday 8:45 to 9:15 AM and Noon to 2:00 PM
  - Saturday 8:15 to 8:45 AM and Noon to 2:00 PM
  - Sunday 8:15 to 8:45 AM and Noon to 2:00 PM
• General Sessions will be held in Sebastian Ballrooms I and J, Level 1.

• Individuals needing to conduct business with the NFB treasurer may do so by going to the Wekiwa Registration Desk, Level 2 on Friday between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., or on Saturday between noon and 2:00 p.m.
7:30 - 8:45 AM—AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION—EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Suwannee 11, Level 2
Discuss convention frequencies, hotel architectural features, and distribution of special FM receivers for the hearing-impaired and Spanish-speaking attendees. Rachel Olivero (AD9O), President

7:30 AM - 4:45 PM—TOOLS IN MY TOOLBOX: A CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS OF BLIND/VISUALLY-IMPAIRED CHILDREN
Registration: Adults, $40; two or more adults, $70; children (to 18), free. Sponsored by NFB’s National Organization of Parents of Blind Children Division (NOPBC). Kim Cunningham, President
Panzacola Ballroom F-1, Level 1
7:30-8:45 AM—Registration
9:00-10:45 AM—General Session
11:00 AM-12:15 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session I
   Essential 411: How to Optimize Your Convention Experience—Suwannee 13, Level 2
   Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts: How Might They Benefit My Blind Child?—Suwannee 18, Level 2
   Tools and Best Practices for Helping Blind Elementary School Students Succeed in Math—Suwannee 19, Level 2
   From Infant to Young Adult: Braille and Tactile Markings Everyday—Suwannee 20, Level 2
2:00-3:15 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops, Session II
   Transitions: Preparing Teens for College and Career—Suwannee 13, Level 2
   Tools and Best Practices for Teaching Higher Level Math—Suwannee 18, Level 2
   Structured Discovery: How to Encourage Independent Travel and Exploration for All Children—Suwannee 19, Level 2
   Making It Work: Creating Classrooms Where Blind Children of All Ages Can Learn and Thrive—Suwannee 20, Level 2
3:30-4:45 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops Session III
   Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts: How Might They Benefit My Blind Child?—Suwannee 13, Level 2
   Hands-On Math: Explore the Tools Which Will Help Your Child Succeed in Math at All Levels—Suwannee 18, Level 2
3:30-4:45 PM—NOPBC Concurrent Workshops Session III (cont’d.)
Print or Braille? I Use Both—Suwannee 19, Level 2
I’m Blind and That's OK!: Helping Your Child Develop Self-Confidence and Self-Esteem—Suwannee 20, Level 2

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM—CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND—SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REHABILITATION AND ORIENTATION & MOBILITY CONFERENCE
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
7:30-8:30 AM—Registration
8:30 AM—Conference begins
Registration Fees: students, $75; professionals, $85 before June 15 ($100 after that date applies).
Sponsors: National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) and the Professional Development & Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at the Louisiana Tech University. Dr. Edward Bell, Chairperson

8:30 AM—CHILD-CARE SERVICES (Preregistration by June 15 was required)
Suwannee 14, 15, 16, and 17, Level 2
Please see “Convention Note 6” for further information.

8:30 - 11:30 AM—WHAT’S NEW WITH JAWS 2018 AND OTHER VFO SOFTWARE INCLUDING SPECIAL LICENSING CHANGES FOR HOME USE
Panzacola Ballroom H-3, Level 1
Join Eric Damery to discuss special Home Use pricing opportunities for NFB members. See demonstrations of significant feature changes and interesting options in JAWS and ZoomText to improve your day-to-day access to the internet, email, and applications from Office 365 and Google Docs.

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—JERNIGAN INSTITUTE TECHNOLOGY SEMINARS
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
8:30-8:45 AM—Strategic Nonvisual Access Program (SNAP)
8:45-10:20 AM—Accessible Electronic Documents Including PDF and EPUB
10:30 AM-11:50 AM—Intuit: How Accessible Is It? Mr. Ted Drake, Intuit Corp
1:30-3:00 PM—Microsoft Narrator: What You Should Know from a Consumer Perspective
3:40-5:00 PM—Mobile Productivity: Android vs. iOS

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2

10:00 - 11:00 AM—MASTER THE BASICS OF MANAGING YOUR MONEY
Wekiwa 3, Level 2
In this session, you’ll discover the benefits of using a financial institution, opening checking and savings accounts, and keeping track of your money. Learn how to choose checking and savings accounts that are right for you; make purchases and pay bills with ATM cards, debit cards, and checks; track and manage your transactions; and avoid or minimize fees. In addition, learn the basics of budgeting and gain access to tools to help you create a personal spending plan.

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM—NF-BE HEALTHY FAIR
Sebastian Ballroom J, Level 1
Join the NFB Sports & Recreation Division and WE Fit Wellness for a hands-on health and exercise experience. Learn about your health, donate blood, check out accessible activity trackers and other health devices, and try some fun activities like sword fighting, cardio drumming, goalball, and more.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM—USING CREDIT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE
Wekiwa 3, Level 2
Learn the basics of credit, including information on credit scores, how to obtain and read a credit report, and how to establish a good credit history. In addition, you’ll learn how to use your credit to your advantage to help you achieve your goals and dreams. Attend this session to learn about the types of loans available; how to shop for, compare and choose a loan product; how to choose a lender; and how to protect yourself from risk.

12:00 - 6:00 PM—NFB KRAFTERS MARKETPLACE
PANZACOLA BALLROOM H-4, LEVEL 1
Looking for that one of a kind souvenir from convention? Want to support Federation entrepreneurs? Shop the Krafters marketplace for beautiful and unique handmade creations. Help celebrate our tenth birthday! Joyce Kane, President
1:00 - 3:00 PM—EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Face off with experts from the Employment Committee who will give you advice and answer your questions. Learn about new technology and resources, too. Looking for a job? Bring your résumé! Looking for an employee? Bring your job posting! Networking abounds. Suggestions welcome. Dick Davis, Chairperson

1:00 - 5:00 PM—HIMS USER GROUPS
Wekiwa 8, Level 2
1:00 PM—User group: Braille displays
HIMS pushes the Braille display envelope (over the Edge)! Get a sneak peek at something new (really new). Join the HIMS team for a look at the future of Braille displays—and the Braille display of the future.
3:00 PM—User Group: Polaris
The Polaris MINI is here. It's tiny, but it isn't small. It's huge. Find out what this pint-size powerhouse is all about—but don't forget about the 32-cell big brother. Choices: more Braille or greater portability? Join the HIMS team for a look at the biggest little notetaker ever. Where should we set the bar?

1:00 - 5:00 PM—GUIDE DOG USERS ANNUAL SEMINAR
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
1:00 PM—Registration
2:00 PM—Presentations
A board-certified emergency veterinarian will share how to assess if your dog’s health issue is an emergency needing immediate attention. We will also address the issue of counterfeit service animals and discuss ways to solve the problem. Marion Gwizdala, President, National Association of Guide Dog Users Division

1:00 - 5:00 PM—HUMANWARE PRODUCT SHOWCASE AND USER GROUPS
Sebastian I-3, Level 1
1:00-2:00 PM—BrailleNote Touch, the world’s first Google-certified Braille tablet: simple, efficient, intuitive, and powerful. Join the HumanWare team to learn about the latest updates and enhancements while having fun. In addition, get a sneak preview of our upcoming KeySoft update.
2:00-3:00 PM—Brailliant B1 14: Our smallest Braille display yet boasts cutting-edge intelligence and innovative features made with the mobile professional in mind. Learn to stay connected and productive on the go.
3:00-4:00 PM—VictorReader Trek: Victor Readers Unite. Join HumanWare with your ideas for an open discussion and demonstration of what is new with both the Victor Reader Stream and Trek.
4:00-5:00 PM—Innovations of the Future: Listening to our customers is what makes innovation desirable and imperative. What are the barriers you face? What frustrates you when it comes to technology? Participate in an open forum to share your technology ideas and feedback to our experts.

2:00 - 5:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2

3:00 - 5:00 PM—BLIND CANCER SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP
Wekiwa 3, Level 2
Join us for a meet and greet, a panel discussion, and personal stories of strength and courage. Our group's purpose is to help all cancer survivors get well and stay well, to offer preventive measures, and to create a platform for cohesive dialogue and information dissemination. Isaiah Nelson, Coordinator

3:00 - 8:30 PM—SPORTS AND RECREATION WORKSHOP
Panzacola Ballroom G-2, Level 1
3:00-4:00 PM—Eating Healthy on a Budget: Eating healthy does not have to come with a hefty price tag. Come learn tips and tricks for eating healthy while keeping money in your wallet.
4:30-5:30 PM—Anytime Anywhere Exercise: Learn exercises that you can do anywhere, anytime, and with little to no equipment. You are guaranteed to get a full body workout.
6:00-7:00 PM—Essential Oils 101: Come learn how essential oils offer natural solutions for weight management, stress, sleep, anxiety, depression, pain, sinuses, or allergy issues.
7:00-8:00 PM—Yin Yoga: Come unwind after a long day of convention activities! Yin yoga, a simple but definitely not easy form of yoga, allows the most novice student to learn and provides enough challenge for the most advanced yogi.
8:00-8:30 PM—Meditation and Mindfulness: Leave your stress at the door and focus on the now as we guide you through powerful meditation exercises.

Sponsored by the Sports & Recreation Division, Jessica Beecham, President.

5:00 - 7:00 PM—HISPANIC SEMINAR
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Blindness is blindness, no matter what the language. Meet new and old friends; learn about Federation philosophy and the truth about blindness—in Spanish. Alpidio Rolón, Moderator
5:00 - 7:30 PM—MIX-AND-MINGLE RECEPTION FOR REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS
Panzacola Ballroom H-2, Level 1

5:30 - 7:00 PM—NOPBC FAMILY HOSPITALITY
Panzacola Ballroom F-1, Level 1
Relax, snack, chat, meet new families and teachers, and connect with old friends. Veteran attendees will be on hand to welcome you and provide information. Free admission with 2018 NOPBC Conference name badge; $15 per adult, $5 per child without badge. Pizza and lemonade will be served. Cosponsored by the National Organization of Professionals in Blindness Education, a Division of the NFB.

6:00 - 8:30 PM—EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE PRESENTED BY THE TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Panzacola Ballroom H-3, Level 1
Come explore ways to evaluate new products. Hear the technology-related exhibitors briefly explain what they are exhibiting and where they are located in the Exhibit Hall. All are welcome. Mark Jones, Chairperson

6:00 - 10:00 PM—LIVING THE GUIDE DOG USER LIFE YOU WANT!
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
6:00 PM—Registration
7:00 PM—Presentations

6:30 - 10:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND OFFICE PROFESSIONALS
Suwannee 19, Level 2
6:30 PM—Registration
Learn about assistive technology in the workplace, training opportunities, and any job announcements available. Lisa Hall, President
7:00 - 8:30 PM—LIVING HISTORY GROUP
Suwannee 20, Level 2
Dedicated to recording, preserving, and appreciating Federation history. Michael Freholm, Chairperson

7:00 - 9:30 PM—SENIORS DIVISION SEMINAR—EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS—ARE YOU PREPARED? ($5)
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
7:00 PM—Registration
7:30 PM—Meeting
Be informed on how you can survive the unknown of emergencies—whether to stay in place or evacuate. Learn simple ways you can sustain yourself and those with you for several days. Ask questions and share ideas with experts in the field. Ruth Sager, President

7:00 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2

7:30 - 9:30 PM—NABS STUDENT NETWORKING
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
Swing by the National Association of Blind Students networking event to make new friends and reconnect with old ones, chat with NABS members and leaders about our division or anything else that’s on your mind, and join us for fun to kick off the convention week! Kathryn Webster, President

8:00 - 9:00 PM—WHITE CANE AND AFFILIATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Are there new and ingenious ways to collect money and spread the word about the NFB? I’m sure there are. Come and share your ideas on how to fund our movement. Alpidio Rolón, Chairperson

8:00 - 9:30 PM—ROOKIE ROUNDUP
Panzacola Ballroom G-1, Level 1
First-time convention attendees—don’t miss this event! President Riccobono and former rookies will be on hand to welcome you and answer questions about the week’s activities. Pam Allen, Director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind, President of the NFB of Louisiana, Chairperson and Vice President of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind
8:00 PM - Midnight—KARAOKE NIGHT ♪♫ (admission: $6)
Panzacola Ballrooms F-3 and F-4, Level 1
Here’s your chance to sing like a rock star and help support BLIND, Inc. youth programs. Enjoy music, door prizes, and a cash bar as you learn about innovative programs at BLIND, Inc. Show us your talent! Hosted by BLIND, Incorporated.

9:00 - 10:00 PM—NFB AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING
Wekiwa 10, Level 2
Dan Burke, Chairperson
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—REGISTRATION ($30) AND BANQUET TICKET SALES ($70)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM—INDEPENDENCE MARKET
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1

9:00 - 11:00 AM—SPONSOR-LEVEL EXHIBITORS PREVIEW
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1
The Exhibit Hall opens its doors and is dedicated solely to sponsor-level exhibitors. Come to say “thank you” to our sponsors and enjoy their interesting offers and demonstrations. Our exhibiting convention sponsors follow:

Platinum:
Aira Tech Corp; Enhanced Vision/Freedom Scientific/Optelec; Google, Inc.; HumanWare; Microsoft Corporation; Vanda Pharmaceuticals

Gold:
Oracle; HIMS, Inc.; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Target

Silver:
Amazon, Automattic (WordPress.com), AT&T, Pearson, Sprint

Bronze:
Charter Communications, Educational Testing Service (ETS), Lyft, NReach, VitalSource Technologies

White Cane:
C&P - Chris Park Design; Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind; Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind; Duxbury Systems, Inc.; En-Vision America; Envision, Inc.; Federal Bureau of Investigation; OrCam Technologies; San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind; TRE Legal Practice
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM—EXHIBIT HALL
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1

1:00 PM—RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Sebastian Ballroom J, Level 1
Sharon Maneki, Chairperson

1:00 - 2:15 PM—HOW THE ABLE ACT BENEFITS YOU
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
The ABLE Act affords individuals whose onset of blindness was before age twenty-six the ability to establish tax-advantaged savings accounts without interfering with government benefits. Learn more from this ABLE account expert. Eric Ochmanek, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer of Ohio

1:00 - 4:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH STYLE SHOW
Wekiwa 8, Level 2
   1:00 PM—Rehearsal
   2:45 PM—Style Show begins
Our young blind models and NFB stars strut their stuff on the runway. We extend a special invitation to our kids with additional disabilities. Come enjoy the fashions and music and support NOPBC. Tickets $5 at the door. Penny Duffy, Secretary, NOPBC, and Kim Cunningham, President, NOPBC

1:00 - 4:00 PM—BLIND MUSICIANS GROUP
Suwannee 19, Level 2
Share tips and ideas, ask questions and network with other blind musicians. Parents and students are welcome. Linda Mentink, Chairperson

1:00 - 5:00 PM—DEAFBLIND HOPE: HAVE ONLY POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS
Wekiwa 9, Level 2
Join our workshop designed to give unique solutions and create positive changes for those who live with a combined loss of hearing/sight: SSPs, deafblind culture, ensuring medical accommodations, and more. Shake your booty with a deafblind conga line! Sponsored by the NFB Deaf-Blind Division; Alice Eaddy, President

1:00 - 5:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2
1:00 - 5:00 PM—MICROSOFT PRODUCT SHOWCASE I
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
1:00 PM—Accessibility in Windows: Learn about the accessibility features in Windows 10, including features recently introduced in the April 2018 update.
2:00 PM—Microsoft Soundscape Training: Learn how to use Soundscape’s 3D audio technology to enhance your awareness of what is around you to help you get around and explore your surroundings. This hands-on training will help you effectively use the Soundscape app in various scenarios and settings. An iPhone 5S and above with the app and a pair of stereo headsets is required.
4:00 PM—What’s New with Narrator: Come hear about the features being developed for the next release of Narrator.

1:00 - 6:00 PM—KNFB READER OPEN HOUSE: LEARN HOW TO POINT, SHOOT, AND READ!
Wekiwa 7, Level 2
Witness the power of the fastest and most accurate print-reading app in person. Learn how version 3.0 for iOS and its new features can give you fast, reliable, and independent access to printed information. Get your questions answered and request a demonstration from KNFB Reader experts.

1:00 - 6:00 PM—NFB-NEWSLINE® DEMONSTRATION OPEN HOUSE
Wekiwa 7, Level 2
NFB-NEWSLINE’s five hundred publications, including sixty magazines, can help you become a part of your community’s conversation and live the life you want. Our NFB-NEWSLINE experts are here to answer your questions. Not a subscriber? We can sign you up on the spot!

1:00 - 8:00 PM—INSPIRING ARTISTS, BEGINNERS TO PROS
Panzacola Ballroom H-4, Level 1
1:00-5:00 PM—Drop-in Activities: Free activities for all! Make tactile drawings, color or sculpt on your own work OR join Jenny Callahan to work on a large group project. Art-making fun at its best.
6:00-8:00 PM—Tactile Artist to Tactile Artist Exhibit: Find and share inspiration with your peers. Price of admission? One piece of tactile/multi-sensory artwork to share with each other. This positive feedback event will give us a chance to talk about our work and ask questions. Public event on July 5. Deborah Kent Stein and Ann Cunningham, Coordinators
1:00 - 8:30 PM—JOB SEEKER SEMINAR
Wekiwa 3, Level 2
1:00 PM—Seminar
4:00 PM—Dinner Break
6:00 PM—Breakouts
Load up with ammunition for your job hunt! Expert advice and great ideas from NFB training centers, agencies, and employers. Includes breakouts and networking. Set your sights for the NFB National Job Fair. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee, Dick Davis, Chairperson

2:00 - 5:00 PM—GOOGLE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION
Sebastian Ballrooms I-3, Level 1
2:00 PM—Google G Suite Accessibility: Join Roger to learn more about the latest accessibility improvements to Google G Suite apps, including Google Docs, Google Drive, Google Calendar, and more.
2:45 PM—Google Home & Google Assistant: Discover the many capabilities of Google Home, the eyes-free Google Assistant device designed to enhance your home environment.
3:30 PM—Android Accessibility: Join us for an overview of Android accessibility and recent updates. Learn about the latest developments in TalkBack and the Android operating system.
4:15 PM—Chromebook Accessibility: Join Laura to learn about the accessibility features built into every Chromebook, including the ChromeVox screen reader, Braille support, magnification, and more.

2:30 - 5:00 PM—PROFESSIONALS IN BLINDNESS EDUCATION
Suwannee 13, Level 2
2:30 PM—Registration
3:00 PM—Meeting
All professionals working with students from birth through age twenty-one are welcome and encouraged to join our informative and interactive meeting. Come network and collaborate, sharing and learning with colleagues and future educators. Eric Guillory, President
2:30 - 8:30 PM—SPORTS & RECREATION WORKSHOPS
Sebastian Ballroom I-2, Level 1
2:30-4:00 PM and 4:00-6:30 PM—1Touch Self Defense Workshops ($10 per session): Come experience self-defense designed with blind people in mind.
6:30-7:30 PM—Accessible Exercise: There’s an app for that! Come learn and share your knowledge of accessible exercise apps. We will even give some of them a try!
7:30-8:30 PM—Relaxation and Meditation: Wind down with essential oils, self-massage, and guided meditation.
Sponsored by the Sports & Recreation Division, Jessica Beecham, President

3:00 - 5:30 PM—BECOME A TRAILBLAZER
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Are you a high school or college student, recent graduate, or young professional who is ambitious and goal-oriented? Get the ins and outs of advocacy, branding yourself, and paving your path forward. Learn tools for interviewing, public speaking, networking, and becoming the trailblazer you are ready to be! Kathryn Webster, President, National Association of Blind Students

4:15 - 5:45 PM—TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MOCK TRIAL (admission: $5)
Panzacola Ballroom G-1, Level 1
Federation lawyers oppose each other to enact a case addressing the civil rights of blind people, and the audience serves as the jury. The subject matter is serious, but the courtroom portrayers are very entertaining. Scott LaBarre, President, National Association of Blind Lawyers

5:00 - 10:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND VETERANS RECEPTION AND MEETING
Panzacola Ballroom H-2, Level 1
5:00 PM—Veterans Welcome Reception with food and cash bar
7:00 PM—National Meeting
All veterans and interested parties are invited to attend. We will be collecting annual dues of $5 / $100 life membership and discussing issues that affect blind veterans’ benefits and services at the VA. Dwight Sayer, President
5:30 - 7:00 PM—NFB AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS SEMINAR
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
All state affiliate presidents and treasurers are asked to attend this session. Topics will include state financials, year-end preparations, chapter-affiliate relations, and insurance. Participants can discuss state issues with facilitators Nick Lambright and Bridgid Burke.

6:00 - 10:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE USE OF BRAILLE
Wekiwa 9, Level 2
6:00 PM—Registration
Learn about Braille-related research, discuss current projects with vendors who produce Braille through hard copy and technology, review UEB progress, and develop strategies for strengthening our division. Steve Booth, President

6:00 - 10:30 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS (NABS)
Panzacola Ballrooms F-1 and F-2, Level 1
6:00 PM—Registration ($5)
7:00 PM—Meeting begins promptly
Students, young professionals, parents, and all interested in the pursuit of education are encouraged to attend our annual business meeting. Join our students from across the country to discuss the future of our flourishing division. Kathryn Webster, President

7:00 - 8:30 PM—PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DIVISION
Suwannee 19, Level 2
This is our annual meeting of persons employed by federal, state, or municipal governments as well as employees of public utilities. We discuss issues affecting blind public servants. Ivan Weich, President

7:00 - 9:00 PM—KNFB READER LIAISON MEETING
Wekiwa 7, Level 2
All KNFB Reader liaisons are requested to attend this review of version 3.0 and the new features for iOS. We will also be discussing how you can best market KNFB Reader in your state. We are interested in hearing your ideas for upgrades and improvements to the app. Bring your creativity and your questions.
7:00 - 9:00 PM—LEGISLATIVE MEET UP
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
A recap of Washington Seminar, a run-down of priorities, and an opportunity for legislative directors to share with one another strategies to move our legislative priorities at the local, state, and federal levels. Gabe Cazares, Kimie Eacobacci, and Dylan Hedtler-Gaudette, NFB Government Affairs Team

7:30 - 9:00 PM—LIBRARY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wekiwa 8, Level 2
Come and discuss what services there are and what they could be. Learn about new additions to the Library of Congress’s National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and other accessible book programs. David Hyde, Chairperson

7:30 - 9:30 PM—BLIND PARENTS GROUP
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Share techniques for traveling with young children, connecting with other parents in your community, and resources available to blind parents. Please bring your baby carriers, strollers, car seats, and boosters to the meeting to show other parents! Stacy Cervenka, Chairperson

8:00 - 9:00 PM—JUDAISM MEETING
Suwannee 18, Level 2
David Stayer, Chairperson, NFB in Judaism Group

8:00 - 10:00 PM—MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
You're invited! If you are interested in finding ways to discover potential members while keeping current members engaged and interested, this is the meeting for you. Sharing our best practices across the Federation will take our chapters, affiliates, and our national organization to the next level. Jeannie Massay, Chairperson

9:00 - 10:00 PM—SPANISH TRANSLATION COMMITTEE
Wekiwa 10, Level 2
We provide simultaneous translation into Spanish during the general sessions of the convention and lead other Spanish initiatives for the Federation. Please join us if you would like to help with this effort. Conchita Hernandez, Chairperson
THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—REGISTRATION ($30) AND BANQUET TICKET SALES ($70)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM—EXHIBIT HALL and INDEPENDENCE MARKET
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1

9:00 - 11:30 AM—NFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Open to All)
Sebastian Ballrooms I and J, Level 1

12:30 - 2:30 PM—SPORTS & RECREATION DIVISION MEETING
Panzacola G-2, Level 1
Join us for a high energy meeting where we will discuss the business of the division and provide information, tools, and motivation to help you live the life you want through health and wellness. Stay after and participate in some of our fun workshops! Jessica Beecham, President

12:30 - 4:00 PM—NFB DEAF-BLIND DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING
Wekiwa 9, Level 2
Get updates on national issues affecting the deaf-blind community, technology, and the division’s business matters. Alice Eaddy, President

12:30 - 4:30 PM—WHAT’S NEW FROM SENIORS? OUR RETREAT!
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
  12:30 PM—Registration ($5)
  1:30 PM—Meeting
Join the senior division annual meeting and learn about blindness skills training through our Senior Retreat Program. We teach each other about the truth of living with blindness and aging. Hear seniors tell their stories on how to Live the Life You Want. Silent Auction. Ruth Sager, President
12:30 - 5:00 PM—DIABETES ACTION NETWORK SEMINAR  
Suwannee 11, Level 2  
12:30 PM—Registration  
Learn about new accessible diabetes equipment coming to market and strategies for living well with diabetes. Division officer and board member elections will be held. Bernadette Jacobs, President

12:30 - 5:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND LAWYERS  
Panzacola Ballroom H-3, Level 1  
12:30 PM—Registration  
Examine laws affecting blind people and others with disabilities; address ongoing struggles to gain equal access to websites, employment, legal texts, and exams; share practice tips for blind lawyers. Scott LaBarre, President

12:30 - 5:00 PM—NFB IN COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Wekiwa 4, Level 2  
12:30 PM—Registration  
Enhancing nonvisual access to information technology and improving the ability of blind information and computer technology professionals to compete in today's world. Brian Buhrow, President

12:30 - 5:00 PM—NFB IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH  
Suwannee 19, Level 2  
12:30 PM—Registration  
Speakers will tell how their faith has helped them face and overcome challenges. Also, hear representatives from various faith-based libraries and publishing houses describe what their organizations do. Tom Anderson, President

1:00 - 4:00 PM—PERFORMING ARTS DIVISION  
Wekiwa 3, Level 2  
Are you a performer seeking connection with other blind performers? Come join us as we plan for the next year and learn from each other. Then gain some practical experience through our improv workshop. Let's tackle the stage together! Julie McGinnity, President
1:00 - 4:30 PM—NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLIND EDUCATORS
Suwannee 18, Level 2
Blind teachers discuss techniques they use in their classrooms. Participants meet in groups specific to grade level and content area to create a network of mentors. If you teach or are considering a career in teaching, please join us. Cayte Mendez, President

1:00 - 4:30 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND MERCHANTS
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
Presentations will include emerging leaders, private sector opportunities in convenience services, and our new Women’s Entrepreneur Initiative. Nicky Gacos, President

1:00 - 5:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2

1:00 - 5:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
1:00 PM—Registration ($5)
2:00 PM—Call meeting to order
Network, share mutual interests, find placement strategies, and examine and discuss concerns and current issues. Melody Roane, President

1:00 - 5:00 PM—HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION
Suwannee 20, Level 2
1:00 PM—Registration ($5)
2:00-5:00 PM—Division Meeting
We are a diverse group of blind professionals and students who have a passion for working with people. Please join us for our annual meeting that includes a networking session during our last hour. Candice Chapman, President

1:00 - 6:00 PM—KNFB READER OPEN HOUSE: LEARN HOW TO POINT, SHOOT, AND READ!
Wekiwa 7, Level 2
Witness the power of the fastest and most accurate print reading app in person. Learn how version 3.0 for iOS and its new features can give you fast, reliable, and independent access to printed information. Get your questions answered and request a demonstration from KNFB Reader experts.
1:00 - 6:00 PM—NFB-NEWSLINE® DEMONSTRATION OPEN HOUSE
Wekiwa 7, Level 2
NFB-NEWSLINE’s five hundred publications, including sixty magazines, can help you become a part of your community’s conversation and live the life you want. Our NFB-NEWSLINE experts are here to answer your questions. Not a subscriber? We can sign you up on the spot!

1:00 - 8:00 PM—INSPIRING ARTISTS, BEGINNERS TO PROS
Panzacola Ballroom H-4, Level 1
1:00-5:00 PM—Drop-in Art Room: Free activities for all! Make tactile drawings, color or sculpt your own work, OR join Jenny Callahan to work on a large group project. Art-making fun at its best.
6:00-8:00 PM—Tactile Artists to Our NFB Family Exhibit: It’s a party! Come and have fun talking to the artists about their work. It is a great chance to ask, “How did you do that?” Deborah Kent Stein and Ann Cunningham, Coordinators

2:00 - 4:00 PM—NOPBC MEETING
Panzacola Ballroom F-1, Level 1
Keynote address by the 2018 Distinguished Educator of Blind Children; talks on accessible science, art, textbooks, games, technology, programs for kids, Parent Power, business meeting, elections, and more. Kim Cunningham, President

2:30 - 10:00 PM—SPORTS & RECREATION DIVISION WORKSHOPS
Panzacola Ballroom G-2, Level 1
2:30-3:30 PM—Traditional Japanese Sword Fighting: You saw it at the NF-BE Healthy Fair, now get a more in-depth lesson in nonvisual techniques.
3:30-4:30 PM—Line Dancing: Break out the boots and cowboy hats for a little line dancing. We will learn some fun and popular dances. If you are shy about dancing, this is a GREAT way to begin feeling comfortable and confident dancing at social events.
4:30-6:00 PM and 6:00-7:30 PM—1Touch Self Defense Workshops ($10 per session): Come experience self-defense designed with blind people in mind!
7:30-8:30 PM—Vinyasa Flow: Bring a mat or towel from your room and try flow with us! Try yoga with a descriptive instructor in a nonjudgmental environment.
8:30-9:30 PM—Essential Oils 101: Come learn how essential oils offer natural solutions for weight management, stress, sleep, anxiety, depression, pain, sinuses, or allergy issues.
9:30-10:00 PM—Meditation and Mindfulness: Leave your stress at the door and focus on the now as we guide you through powerful meditation exercises.
Sponsored by the Sports & Recreation Division. Jessica Beecham, President

4:30 - 6:30 PM—COMMUNICATIONS WORK SESSION
Suwannee 13, Level 2
Join the NFB communications team for an informal work session. We’ll update social media icons, exchange ideas to build our brand and enhance everything from emails to social media, and more. Bring questions and ideas! Kirsten Mau, Chris Danielsen, Alyssa Vetro, Karen Anderson, Suzanne Shaffer, Facilitators

5:00 - 6:30 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLIND LAWYERS RECEPTION
Panzacola Ballroom H-2, Level 1
For NABL division members and seminar participants only; to promote networking and fellowship within our membership. Hors d’oeuvres and cash bar are available. Scott LaBarre, President

5:00 - 7:00 PM—BRAILLE BOOK FAIR PRESENTING SPONSOR WELLS FARGO
Panzacola Ballrooms F-3 and F-4, Level 1
Browse tables of new and used Braille and print/Braille books. There will be fiction, nonfiction, early readers through multi-volume novels, cookbooks, and more. Through a collaboration with our Literacy Partner, the Wells Fargo Foundation, the books are offered at no cost to the reader. Volunteers will box and prepare them to be shipped to the reader’s home via Free Matter for the Blind. Donations are encouraged. Krystal Guillory, Coordinator

6:00 - 8:00 PM—NFB LGBT MEETING
Wekiwa 6, Level 2
Building the NFB and giving back with pride! Proposed topics include accessibility of PFLAG materials, cataloging accessible LGBTQ+ literature, and how training centers make their programs welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community. Group social TBA. Tai Tomasi, Coordinator, 515-329-4908
6:00 - 9:00 PM—MICROSOFT PRODUCT SHOWCASE II
Panzacola Ballroom H-3, Level 1
6:00 PM—Seeing AI: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Augment Visual Awareness: Discover behind the scene details, user stories, upcoming research, and best practices that help guide the development of Seeing AI app.
7:00 PM—Accessibility in Windows: Learn about the accessibility features in Windows 10, including features recently introduced in the April 2018 update.
8:00 PM—What’s New with Narrator: Come hear about the features being developed for the next release of Narrator.

6:00 - 10:00 PM—EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE OPEN HOUSE (ETS)
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Come and learn about ETS’ new Graduate Records Examination (GRE) computer adaptive test along with the latest developments in accessibility. Come try out the GRE and other demos. This event is open to all to learn about twenty-first-century digital assessments. Cary A. Supalo, Educational Testing Service

6:00 - 10:00 PM—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GUIDE DOG USERS
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
6:00 PM—Registration
7:00 PM—Call to Order
Celebrate our successes in education and advocacy on behalf of guide dog users. Learn more about our Uber/Lyft settlement and how you can be a part of change. Hear from Delta Airlines about its service animal policy. Elect our division’s leaders. Marion Gwizdala, President

6:00 - 10:00 PM—EMPOWERING THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE
Wekiwa 10, Level 2
6:00 PM—Registration ($5)
6:30 PM—Meeting
Join the Community Service Division as we explore empowerment and community service, what it means, and how it fits in our movement and our lives. Let’s find out together. Let’s get involved! Darian Smith, President

6:30 - 8:30 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK SESSIONS (ages 14-18)
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2
6:30 - 9:00 PM—ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINERS DIVISION
Suwannee 11, Level 2
6:30 PM—Registration
Join us for a lively discussion with Douglas Walker about Hadley's instructional videos and other training opportunities. We will also discuss technologies our students will encounter in research and STEM careers. Nancy Coffman, President

6:30 - 10:00 PM—SCIENCE & ENGINEERING DIVISION
Wekiwa 9, Level 2
6:30 PM—Registration
7:00 PM—Meeting
Learn about the process of designing medical equipment. Learn how to lead a cross-functional team of engineers. Learn how the blind can gain access to graphics and mathematical material. John Miller, President

6:30 - 10:00 PM—BALLROOM DANCING WORKSHOPS
Wekiwa 3, Level 2
6:30 PM—Registration ($5)
7:15 PM—Tango Lesson
8:30 PM—Salsa Lesson
Learn to conquer the dance floor with spicy salsa and dramatic tango! No partner or prior dance experience needed; all are welcome! Katelyn MacIntyre, Vice President, NFB Performing Arts Division

7:00 - 8:30 PM—“ELOQUENCE OF COURAGE” (an original play by Jerry Whittle; $5 admission fee; one performance only)
Panzacola Ballroom G-1, Level 1
A play based on the life and times of Louis Braille. Help us honor the important role Braille played in achieving independence and literacy. All proceeds support LCB’s Buddy Program, a summer program for blind children which fosters independence. Please join with us following the performance to reflect upon and celebrate the many contributions of our beloved LCB staff.

7:00 - 9:00 PM—CHAPTER PRESIDENTS’ CHAPTER MEETING
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
Learn about the new member onboarding process, from recruitment to induction and orientation to the Federation! We will introduce new tools for you and our chapters and affiliates. Building the Federation begins with you. Chapter presidents, please attend this meeting! Jeannie Massay, Coordinator
**THURSDAY, JULY 5, Continued**

7:00 - 9:00 PM—**EMPOWERING UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS**  
Wekiwa 8, Level 2  
If you are feeling underserved, come and be heard. Get empowered to live the life you want! Ron Brown, Chairperson

7:00 - 9:00 PM—**NFB KRAFTERS DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING**  
Suwannee 18, Level 2  
NFB Krafters Division is turning ten years old! Come celebrate our milestone. Join us to discover the dreams, talents, creativity, classes, and friendships we have shared over the last ten years. We have only just begun. Come and be a part of our future! Joyce Kane, President

7:00 - 10:00 PM—**GET YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME WITH NFB-NEWSLINE® AND KNFB READER**  
Wekiwa 7, Level 2  
We are in search of stars for some marketing and outreach videos. Stop by and have a brief conversation with us about how NFB-NEWSLINE and KNFB Reader help you live the life you want. Did you get a job using NFB-NEWSLINE? Were you prepared for a storm because of NFB-NEWSLINE’s weather alerts or forecasts? How did KNFB Reader help you with a school assignment? What mystery text have you been able to decipher with KNFB Reader in hand? If you want to help us out, please email Scott White at swhite@nfb.org or come have a quick chat with us on camera anytime between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m.!

7:30 - 9:00 PM—**DADS’ NIGHT OUT**  
All dads, sighted and blind, are welcome. Contact Corbb O’Connor at 703-309-4884 for location. Sponsored by NOPBC.

7:30 - 9:30 PM—**BLIND FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Suwannee 13, Level 2  
Come learn about issues facing federal employees and applicants. Share your experiences with and your solutions to federal workplace challenges. Ronza Othman, Chairperson

8:00 - 9:00 PM—**FRIENDS OF RECOVERY MEETING**  
Suwannee 19, Level 2  
All convention delegates involved in or interested in twelve-step recovery programs are invited to attend. A second Friends of Recovery meeting will be on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Sheri K., Coordinator
8:00 - 9:30 PM—WEBMASTERS MEETING
Suwannee 20, Level 2
A meeting for all NFB affiliate and division webmasters to discuss the importance of an informative, accessible, and visually attractive website. Gary Wunder, Chairperson

8:00 - 10:00 PM—NABS OLYMPICS ($5)
Panzacola Ballroom F-1, Level 1
Join us for games, challenges, trivia, and an evening of fun with our national divisions and NFB training centers. Come play, compete, win prizes, and show off. All are invited! Kathryn Webster, President
FRI DAY, JULY 6, 2018

8:00 - 8:45 AM—DEVOTIONS
Wekiwa 10, Level 2

8:45 - 9:15 AM—PREREgISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

8:45 - 9:15 AM—REGISTRATION ($30), AND BANQUET TICKET SALES ($70)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

9:30 AM CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:35 AM WELCOMING CEREMONIES
2018 National Convention Host Committee: National Federation of
the Blind of Iowa, National Federation of the Blind of Florida, National
Federation of the Blind of Virginia

10:05 AM CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM: VETERANS RECOGNIZED
Dwight Sayer, President, National Association of Blind Veterans, a
Division of the National Federation of the Blind; Winter Garden,
Florida

10:25 AM ROLL CALL OF STATES AND APPOINTMENT OF
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

11:55 AM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

12:00 PM ADJOURN

Noon - 1:45 PM—EXHIBIT HALL AND INDEPENDENCE MARKET
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1
12:15 - 1:45 PM—LOUISIANA CENTER FOR THE BLIND ALUMNI RECEPTION
Panzacola Ballroom H-2, Level 1
All Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) alumni and those interested in learning more about our life-changing programs are welcome. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni. Learn how LCB training will help you “live the life you want!” Pam Allen, Executive Director

1:30 - 2:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

1:30 - 2:00 PM—REGISTRATION ($30) AND FINAL BANQUET TICKET SALES ($70)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

GENERAL SESSION

2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

2:05 PM PRESIDENTIAL REPORT
Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

3:05 PM DREAM MAKERS CIRCLE

3:10 PM THE UNEXPLORED DIMENSIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHY: THE BLIND AND THE FREEDOM OF TACTILE UNDERSTANDING
John Olson, Co-founder, 3DPhotoWorks; Chatham, New York

3:25 PM DIRECTING BIG DATA AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION: PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP BY THE BLIND
Chancey Fleet, 2018-2019 Fellow, Data and Society Research Institute; First Vice President, National Federation of the Blind of New York; Brooklyn, New York
3:45 PM  BRINGING CONNECTIONS TO SCALE: THE BLIND AND A WORLDWIDE CROWD FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION
Christian Erfurt, CEO and Co-founder, Be My Eyes; Copenhagen, Denmark

4:00 PM  NETWORKING THAT EMPOWERS INNOVATION: ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE BLIND THROUGH FACEBOOK
Monica Desai, Director, Public Policy, Facebook; Washington, DC

4:15 PM  INTRODUCING CHLOE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GUIDED BY THE BLIND
Suman Kanuganti, Co-founder and CEO, Aira Tech Corp.; San Diego, California

4:30 PM  REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

5:00 PM  ADJOURN

5:30 - 6:30 PM—NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Wekiwa 8, Level 2

5:30 - 7:30 PM—RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS MEETING
Suwannee 20, Level 2
The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute's Research Advisory Council invites interested individuals to discuss current research, publication in the Journal of Blindness Innovation and Research (JBIR), and to share ideas for increasing the research and academic presence of the NFB. Edward Bell, Arielle Silverman, and Lou Ann Blake, Coordinators

6:00 - 7:00 PM—PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
Come and learn about all of the options for planned giving. Your affiliate can seek planned gifts best if you understand options. You can determine how best to help fund the future of NFB through your own planned gifts by attending this informational program. Patti Chang, Coordinator
6:00 - 7:30 PM—COMMITTEE ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND INNOVATIONS IN TRANSPORTATION  
Wekiwa 6, Level 2  
This committee collects information about trends in transportation and emerging models of transportation that might not exist today, and which may present opportunities for the blind to move around independently, ensuring the NFB plays a prominent role in the future of transportation. Sachin Dev Pavithran, Chairperson

6:00 - 8:00 pm—COMMITTEE ON AUTOMOBILE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY  
Wekiwa 7, Level 2  
Traveling safer and smarter in a post-combustible-engine era—what pedestrians should know about our ever-changing environment. Bring your expertise, imagination, and an open mind to share ideas and feet-on-the-street experiences. Maurice Peret, Chairperson

6:00 - 8:00 PM—SELF-ADVOCACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1  
A workshop for current or soon-to-be undergraduate or graduate students to know your legal rights and learn effective strategies for self-advocacy in obtaining accommodations and accessing instructional materials and digital content. Gabe Cazares and Valerie Yingling, National Federation of the Blind

6:30 - 9:00 PM—CELEBRATE 30 YEARS WITH THE COLORADO CENTER!  
Panzacola Ballroom H-3, Level 1  
Join us in celebrating thirty years of achievements! Hear from Diane McGeorge and others who contribute to our success. Catch up with current and former staff and students. Doors open at 6:30. Program begins at 7:00, with reception to follow. Julie Deden, Director

7:00 - 9:30 PM—UPWARD MOBILITY SEMINAR  
Wekiwa 10, Level 2  
Stuck in a dead-end job? Want to move up but don’t know how? Learn about LinkedIn, networking, creative job-search skills, and other ways to break the glass ceiling. Hear about crafty ideas from employers, committee members, and others. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee.
7:00-9:00 PM—COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: OPEN TO ALL LEADERS
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
Join together with chapter, affiliate, and division leaders to learn best practices in communications. We’ll explore the tools available to us through our national office and exchange ideas. Learn to effectively use communication as our greatest tool to build the Federation. Jessica Beecham, Chairperson

7:00 - 9:00 PM—EXHIBIT HALL
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1

7:00 - 9:00 PM—GRANT WRITING AND FUNDRAISING BASICS
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
This seminar covers dos and don’ts of grant writing and fundraising for chapters and affiliates. Patti Chang and Seth Lamkin, Coordinators

7:00 - 10:00 PM—HOST COMMITTEE WELCOME PARTY ($10)
Gatlin Ballroom, A, Level 1
Join us to celebrate one last year in Orlando with a concert and party with cash bar featuring special guest apl.de.ap from The Black Eyed Peas. Federation musicians including Marion Gwizdala, Precious Perez, and James Brown will be performing followed by a set from apl.de.ap. apl.de.ap will then keep your feet moving as he DJs a Federation dance party. Event is open exclusively to convention attendees. Tickets may be purchased at the lobby Welcome Table; in the Hospitality Suite; from the Florida, Iowa, and Virginia host affiliate tables in the Exhibit Hall; or at the door. Sponsored by Aira and the 2018 Host Committee.

7:00 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC CONCURRENT SESSIONS
7:00-9:45 PM It’s Playtime!: Drop in with your infant, toddler, or preschooler. Network with other families, ask questions, play together!—Suwannee 14, Level 2
7:00-8:15 PM—IEP 101: What does a good IEP look like, and how do I get there?—Suwannee 18, Level 2
7:00-8:15 PM—High-Quality Assessments Set the Stage for Service: How can the NRMA and a high-quality orientation and mobility assessment help your child?—Suwannee 19, Level 2
8:30-9:45 PM—IEP 202: Beyond the basics—Suwannee 18, Level 2
8:30-9:45 PM—The Soft Skills Necessary for IEP Success: How do you stay calm, get what your child needs, and stay on good terms with members of the IEP team?—Suwannee 19, Level 2
FRIDAY, JULY 6, Continued

7:00 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK ACTIVITY (ages 11-18)
Wekiwa 1, Level 2
Dating 101: Come join in the various sessions related to dating.

7:00 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC CHILDREN’S CRAFT & GAME NIGHT (ages 5-12)
Wekiwa 2, Level 2
This activity will be available for children of families attending NOPBC workshops ONLY! NFB Child Care will not be open.

8:00 - 10:00 PM—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Wekiwa 9, Level 2
Technology is omnipresent in our lives. While it is invaluable in education and employment, the blind are still excluded from many products. Hear about new advances and discuss how to influence developers to include accessibility in their offerings. Brian Buhrow, Chairperson

8:00 - 10:00 PM—CAREERS IN AUTOMOTIVE-RELATED SPECIALTIES GROUP
Suwannee 20, Level 2
Do you have an interest in automobiles? Do you wonder how they work? Want to get into the automotive repair industry? Come to our meeting. Call 248-595-9134 for details. Marcus Simmons, Chairperson

9:00 PM - Midnight—TRIVIA NIGHT (admission: $5)
Panzacola Ballroom H-2, Level 1
New year, new categories, possibly new champions? Trivia Night is back with a new twist. Bring your chapter, your friends, or make new ones. Leave with bragging rights. Proceeds benefit future programs and activities of the Community Service Division.
8:00 - 8:45 AM—DEVOTIONS
Wekiwa 10, Level 2

8:15 - 8:45 AM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

8:15 - 8:45 AM—REGISTRATION ($30)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

GENERAL SESSION

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:05 AM FINANCIAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE HONOR ROLL CALL

10:15 AM ELECTIONS

11:15 AM WHAT DOES “BLIND” HAVE TO DO WITH IT? THE RIGHT TO PARENT FROM A SIGHTED DAUGHTER’S PERSPECTIVE
Joanne Gabias, Orientation and Mobility Instructor, SAAVI Services for the Blind; Daughter of Longtime Federationists Mary Ellen and Paul Gabias; Tucson, Arizona

11:30 AM COMMON BONDS OF BLINDNESS AROUND THE WORLD: A NEW BLIND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE WORLD ORGANIZATION
José Viera, Chief Executive Officer, World Blind Union; Toronto, Ontario

11:45 AM REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

12:00 PM ADJOURN

Noon - 1:45 PM—EXHIBIT HALL AND INDEPENDENCE MARKET (final opportunity to visit the Independence Market and Exhibit Hall)
Sebastian Ballrooms K and L, Level 1
SATURDAY, JULY 7, Continued

12:15 - 1:30 PM—CASH AND CARING NETWORK
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
Chapters and affiliates can find new ideas for fundraising and network with others who have successfully completed exciting projects. Featured speaker is Melissa Riccobono. Bring your questions and share your solutions. Please bring your name and email/address in print or Braille. Ramona Walhof, Chairperson

12:15 - 1:45 PM—NOPBC BRAINSTORMING SESSION
Suwannee 20, Level 2
Please share your ideas with us. What did you like at this convention? What resources would help you stay connected throughout the year? What workshops might you like to see us offer next year? Be a part of this valuable conversation. Kim Cunningham, President

1:30 - 2:00 PM—PREREGISTRATION PACKET PICKUP
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

1:30 - 2:00 PM—REGISTRATION ($30)
Sebastian Ballroom Pre-function Area, Level 1

GENERAL SESSION

2:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

2:05 PM LEADING WITH CONVICTION: MAKING EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THE PRIORITY FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Neil Romano, Chairman, National Council on Disability; Orlando, Florida

2:20 PM RAISING EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NATION FROM FLORIDA'S NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Honorable Darren Soto, United States House of Representatives, Ninth Congressional District; Orlando, Florida
2:40 PM A RECORD YEAR OF ADVOCACY FOR THE BLIND OF AMERICA: A REPORT FROM THE ADVOCACY AND POLICY DEPARTMENT
John G. Paré Jr., Executive Director for Advocacy and Policy, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland
Scott LaBarre, President, National Federation of the Blind of Colorado; President, National Association of Blind Lawyers, a Division of the National Federation of the Blind; Denver, Colorado

3:15 PM REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

5:00 PM ADJOURN

5:30 - 9:30 PM—AMAZON SHOWCASE
Panzacola Ballroom F-2, Level 1
5:30 PM—Amazon Accessibility Updates: Come join us to hear about exciting new offerings and improvements to Amazon Devices and Kindle reading experiences.
7:30 PM—Night at the Movies: Join Amazon for popcorn, snacks, and an audio-described night at the movies. Come to the Amazon booth in the Exhibit Hall to learn what movie will be shown.

7:00 - 8:00 PM—HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR ACCESSIBILITY WITH THE VOTE-BY-MAIL TOOLKIT
Wekiwa 4, Level 2
If your state is considering becoming a vote-by-mail state, learn how the accessible vote-by-mail toolkit will provide you the tools to advocate for accessibility. Lou Ann Blake and Gabe Cazares, Coordinators

7:00 - 8:30 PM—SOCIAL SECURITY AND SSI: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
Wekiwa 5, Level 2
Social Security and SSI benefits, eligibility criteria, application process, reporting obligations, and information about working while receiving benefits. James Gashel, Secretary, National Federation of the Blind; Susan Rockwood Gashel, Attorney at Law
7:00 - 9:00 PM—BRAILLE PROOFREADING SEMINAR  
Wekiwa 9, Level 2  
If you are a parent of a blind child, teacher of blind and visually-impaired children, a rehabilitation teacher, or interested in learning what’s happening in the Braille field, join us to get hands-on experience. Presented by the National Association of Blind Office Professionals Division. Lisa Hall, President

7:00 - 9:00 PM—NFB NATIONAL JOB FAIR  
Panzacola Ballrooms F-3 and F-4, Level 1  
The job hunt begins. This job fair is different, because these employers want to hire blind people. Dress for success (we mean it), bring a polished résumé, and prepare to talk about yourself. Attend the Job Seeker and Upward Mobility Seminars first to prepare. Interview prep available. Fortune 500 employers and two to three hundred blind job seekers attend. Sponsored by the NFB Employment Committee, Dick Davis, Chairperson

7:00 - 10:00 PM—NOPBC YOUTH TRACK (ages 11-18)  
Wekiwa 1 and 2, Level 2

7:30 - 10:30 PM—EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF TALENT ($5)  
Panzacola Ballroom G-1, Level 1  
Join us for a night of great performances. Whether you take the stage or support your friends from the audience, it is an enjoyable evening of entertainment! Performer cost: $10; admission: $5. We will award cash prizes to two acts. Presented by the Performing Arts Division. Julie McGinnity, President

8:00 - 9:00 PM—FRIENDS OF RECOVERY MEETING  
Suwannee 19, Level 2  
All convention delegates involved in or interested in twelve-step recovery programs are invited to attend. Sheri K., Coordinator
GENERAL SESSION

9:00 AM   CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

9:05 AM   THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF BLIND ENTREPRENEURS:
PROGRESS THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION OF BLIND
BUSINESS OWNERS
Nicky Gacos, President, National Association of Blind Merchants, a
Division of the National Federation of the Blind; Asbury Park, New
Jersey

9:20 AM   A MOVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE BUILT UPON BLIND
EXPERIENCE: A REPORT FROM OUR JERNIGAN INSTITUTE
Anil Lewis, Executive Director for the Jernigan Institute, National
Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland

9:45 AM   FROM MY BLIND CHILD TO OUR BLIND CHILDREN:
WHY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND IS THE
ANSWER
Carlton Anne Cook Walker, Teacher of Blind Students, Attorney, and
Parent; Carlisle, Pennsylvania

10:05 AM  RAISING EXPECTATIONS FOR EDUCATION AND
REHABILITATION: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Johnny Collett, Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services; Washington, DC

10:25 AM   Questions & Answers
10:35 AM  PLAYING YOUR HAND: A BLIND SONGWRITER DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO LIVE THE LIFE HE WANTS
JP Williams, Performing Songwriter and Accessible Technology Professional; Nashville, Tennessee

10:55 AM  AUTHENTICALLY BLIND ON STAGE AND SCREEN: ONE BLIND ACTRESS TRANSFORMS OBSTACLES INTO STEPPING STONES
Marilee Talkington, Actor, Writer, Director, and Activist; New York, New York

11:15 AM  OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITIES: A BLIND ENTREPRENEUR BREAKS THROUGH BARRIERS EVERYWHERE HE BUILDS
Isaac Lidsky, Speaker, Author, Entrepreneur; Windermere, Florida

11:30 AM  REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

12:00 PM  ADJOURN

Noon - 1:45 PM—AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING
Suwannee 11, Level 2; Rachel Olivero (AD9O), President

Noon - 1:45 PM—RAFFLES AND DRAWINGS
Wekiwa 5, Level 2

GENERAL SESSION

2:00 PM  FROM RAISING WAGES TO DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE WORLD: A CHAMPION FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS AND FRIEND OF THE BLIND
The Honorable Tom Ridge, Chairman of the National Organization on Disability; Washington, DC

2:25 PM  AVIATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LAW
Marc Maurer, Director of Legal Policy and Immediate Past President, National Federation of the Blind; Baltimore, Maryland
2:50 PM  EQUAL ACCESS IN AIR TRAVEL FOR THE BLIND: RAISING EXPECTATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Blane Workie, Assistant General Counsel, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, United States Department of Transportation; Washington, DC

3:05 PM  Questions and Answers

3:10 PM  THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL DR. JACOB BOLOTIN AWARDS
James Gashel, Chairperson, Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award Committee; Secretary, National Federation of the Blind; Honolulu, Hawaii

3:40 PM  SHAPING AUTOMOTIVE INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE: AN ALLIANCE WITH THE BLIND OF AMERICA
Mitch Bainwol, President and CEO, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers; Washington, DC

3:55 PM  NO BORDERS TO THE WORLD’S KNOWLEDGE: A COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE BLIND
Francis Gurry, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization; Geneva, Switzerland

4:10 PM  ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE: REMARKS FROM AN INNOVATION PARTNER OF THE BLIND
Ray Kurzweil, Director of Engineering, Google, Inc.; Mountain View, California

4:30 PM  REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

5:00 PM  ADJOURN
7:00 PM—BANQUET
Sebastian Ballrooms I and J, Level 1
INVOCATION
MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Marc Maurer
INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS
BANQUET ADDRESS: Mark Riccobono
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
CONVENTION NOTES:

Note 1: A Federation information desk is in the registration area from Wednesday morning through Sunday in case you have questions or need assistance.

Note 2: Rosen Shingle Creek room rates are: singles and doubles, $88; triples and quads, $93. In addition to the room rates, there is a 12.5 percent tax. There is no charge for children under seventeen in the room with parents as long as no extra bed is required. Proof of convention registration is necessary, including the showing of an NFB registration badge, if requested. Otherwise, regular hotel rates must be paid. This is a non-smoking hotel; smoking is permitted only in specified areas outside.

Note 3: Guide Dog Relief Areas:
There are two guide dog relief areas at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. The one closest to the sleeping room section is located outside lower lobby level at the rear side of the hotel, toward the outdoor function space and pool area. The one closest to the meeting room section is located in the Panzacola-Sebastian wing on level one. Go past the Sebastian Ballrooms K and L (Exhibit Hall and Independence Market), exit through the doors across the end of the wing that lead to the event parking lot, and turn left.

Note 4: All requests for announcements by President Riccobono during General Sessions must be submitted in Braille.

Note 5: Raffle tickets will not be sold in the registration area, and no raffles or other such drawings will take place during convention sessions or at the banquet. The single exception will be that national divisions may (if they request it in advance) conduct drawings during the sessions or at the banquet. Groups or affiliates wishing to conduct their drawings (or any person wishing to know the winners) may go at noon on Sunday to Wekiwa 5, Level 2.

Note 6: Child care for children between the ages of six weeks and twelve years is available during convention sessions, most meetings, and the banquet. Preregistration and payment by June 15 are required for child care. Child care is organized and supervised by Carla McQuillan, the executive director of Main Street Montessori Association. Duncan McQuillan serves as the activities and staff coordinator. Please note that child-care services provides morning and afternoon snacks, but parents are required to provide lunch for their child(ren) every day. Times listed are the opening and closing times. A late fee of $10 per quarter-hour per child will be assessed for late pickups. Child-care services hours are:
Note 7: Divisions, Committees, and Groups: The Federation carries on its business through the affiliated divisions, committees, and groups listed below:

DIVISIONS:

Divisions of the National Federation of the Blind are organized around a specialized interest area usually related to employment or a major stage in life (e.g. parents or students). Divisions serve as a formal vehicle for building the organization at the national level.

Amateur Radio: Rachel Olivero (AD9O), President
Assistive Technology Trainers: Nancy Coffman, President
Communities of Faith: Tom Anderson, President
Computer Science: Brian Buhrow, President
Community Service: Darian Smith, President
Deaf-Blind: Alice Eaddy, President
Diabetes Action Network: Bernadette Jacobs, President
Human Services: Candice Chapman, President
Educators: Cayte Mendez, President
Guide Dog Users: Marion Gwizdala, President
Krafters: Joyce Kane, President
Lawyers: Scott LaBarre, President
Merchants: Nicky Gacos, President
Promote the Use of Braille: Steve Booth, President
Office Professionals: Lisa Hall, President
Parents of Blind Children: Kim Cunningham, President
Performing Arts: Julie McGinnity, President
Professionals in Blindness Education: Eric Guillory, President
Public Employees: Ivan Weich, President
Rehabilitation Professionals: Melody Roane, President
Science and Engineering: John Miller, President
Seniors: Ruth Sager, President
Sports and Recreation: Jessica Beecham, President
Students: Kathryn Webster, President
Veterans: Dwight Sayer, President
Writers: Eve Sanchez, President

COMMITTEES:

Committees of the National Federation of the Blind are appointed by the President, with the exception of the nominating committee, and serve to advise the organization’s leadership on important matters and to carry out projects to build the organization at all levels.

Ambassadors: Dan Burke, Chairperson
Automobile and Pedestrian Safety: Maurice Peret, Chairperson
Autonomous Vehicles and Innovations in Transportation: Sachin Pavithran, Chairperson
Blind Educator of the Year Award: Edward Bell, Chairperson
Blind Federal Employment: Ronza Othman, Chairperson
Cash and Caring: Ramona Walhof, Chairperson
Communications: Jessica Beecham, Chairperson
Distinguished Educator of Blind Children Award: Carla McQuillan, Chairperson
Diversity and Inclusion: Ron Brown, Chairperson
Employment: Dick Davis, Chairperson
Genetic Education: Ronit Ovadia Mazzoni, Chairperson
Imagination Fund: Everette Bacon, Chairperson
Jacobus tenBroek Award: Marc Maurer, Chairperson
Jacobus tenBroek Memorial Fund: Tracy Soforenko, Chairperson
Kenneth Jernigan Fund: Allen Harris, Chairperson
Library Services: David Hyde and Marci Carpenter, Co-Chairpersons
Membership: Jeannie Massay, Chairperson
PAC Plan: Scott LaBarre, Chairperson
Research and Development: Brian Buhrow, Chairperson
Resolutions: Sharon Maneki, Chairperson
Scholarship: Cayte Mendez, Chairperson
Shares Unlimited in NFB (SUN): Sandy Halverson, Chairperson
Spanish Translation: Conchita Hernandez, Chairperson
Technology Evaluation: Mark Jones, Chairperson
White Cane and Affiliate Finance: Alpidio Rolón, Chairperson
GROUPS:

Groups of the National Federation of the Blind serve as a resource to members around specific topic areas. Groups are coordinated by a chairperson appointed by the President and are intended to connect members across the country to strengthen the resource network of the organization.

Blind Cancer Survivors Support: Isaiah Nelson, Chairperson
Blind Musicians: Linda Mentink, Chairperson
Blind Parents: Stacy Cervenka, Chairperson
Blind Professional Journalists: Elizabeth Campbell and Bryan Bashin, Co-Chairpersons
Careers in Automotive Related Specialties: Marcus Simmons, Chairperson
Legislative Initiatives: Don Burns, Chairperson
Living History: Michael Freholm, Chairperson
NFB in Judaism: David Stayer, Chairperson
NFB LGBT Group: Tai Tomasi, Chairperson
NFB Lions: Ramona Walhof and Milton Ota, Co-Chairpersons
Orientation and Mobility: Edward Bell, Chairperson
Piano Technology: Don Mitchell, Chairperson
Travel and Tourism: Amy Baron, President
Webmasters: Gary Wunder, Chairperson
NAVIGATING THE HOTEL
(Adapted from an article by Mary Ellen Jernigan in the May 2011 Braille Monitor)

In recent years I have written a description of the layout of the convention hotel. Although I have tried, I haven’t been able to come up with an image as memorable as “a high top tennis shoe lying on its side” to picture the footprint of the hotel. Nor can I speak easily in terms of north, south, east, and west, because if you were to walk in the front door with compass in hand (which I did), you would find that you were heading not south, not east, or even southeast, but a little east of southeast—120 degrees to be exact.

The first thing to understand about the hotel is that the meeting rooms are located in an area that is totally separate from the part of the hotel that contains the sleeping rooms. The sleeping room elevators do not go to the meeting room levels. This means that the starting place to find any meeting room is always the main lobby.

When you have come in the front door, the hotel registration desk is located to your left along the same wall as the front door. Directly across from the front door toward the far side of the lobby you will find the Birdcage. The Birdcage is a tall, free-standing structure about three feet across filled with colorful, chirping, tropical birds, and is used by hotel staff and guests alike as a major landmark and meeting place. Just beyond the Birdcage is a balcony railing overlooking the level below. Since the odd compass orientation of the hotel makes speaking of facing, turning, or walking north, south, east, or west not particularly meaningful, I will use the following terms in describing the lobby: front door side of the lobby, balcony side of the lobby, facing the balcony, facing the front door, and standing at the Birdcage.

There are two sets of elevators in the main lobby. One set serves the lobby level, the lower lobby level, and floors 1 through 10. These elevators are located inside of a short, free-standing elevator corridor, which is perpendicular to and directly across from the hotel check-in desk. The corridor has an opening at both ends—one end opening toward the hotel check-in desk, and the other end opening toward the balcony side of the lobby. If you turn right as you exit the elevator corridor at the balcony end of the corridor, you will be heading directly toward the Birdcage.

The second set of elevators serves the lobby level, the lower lobby level, and floors 10 through 14. To find this set of elevators from the front door, cross the lobby to the Birdcage (at this point you will be facing the balcony rail overlooking the lower level) and turn right, walking until you dead end at a display case
outside of the entrance to the Cala Bella restaurant. The elevators are now immediately on your right.

The numbering system for the sleeping rooms is based on the floor and the wing in which the room is located, with the floor number given first followed by the wing designation and then the room number. On each sleeping room floor as you leave the elevator area there is a tactile placard on the wall giving a diagram of the wing layout. The letters and numbers can be read tactilely.

If you are standing at the Birdcage facing the balcony rail, the staircase leading down to the lower level will be to your right along the balcony rail. Farther to your right is the fine dining Italian bistro Cala Bella. If you are facing the balcony rail and turn left at the Birdcage you will be walking along the balcony side of the lobby. You would pass the opening into the 1 to 10 elevator corridor on your left, and then continuing on you would find the concierge on your right. Immediately beyond the concierge’s desk is a small single elevator which serves only the lobby level, the lower lobby level, and sleeping rooms located on the third floor. Just beyond this elevator are the entrances into the spa and fitness center. In this corner of the lobby you will also find men’s and women’s restrooms and a staircase leading to the third floor sleeping rooms.

Located on the lower level of the lobby is the large Café Osceola, which is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, offering both buffets and á la carte menu options. Also on this level is the 18 Monroe Street Market. This market is open 24 hours a day and is a combination of convenience store and quick-service restaurant. The restaurant part of the operation opens at 6:30 a.m. and continues well into the evening, offering hot and cold deli-style sandwiches, salads, pizza, hot entrées and desserts either for dine-in or take-out to your room or the outside eating area near the pools. This is a large area containing tables and chairs.

The hotel swimming pools and hot tubs, outdoor function space, and recreation areas, and the Cat-Tails Pool Bar & Grille are all accessed from the lower lobby level. All of this outdoor space is located on the rear side.

Outside on the front entrance side at the lobby level is a stand-alone facility housing a restaurant called A Land Remembered, open for lunch and dinner. As you leave the hotel, a long covered walkway to the right of the front entrance leads to A Land Remembered.
MEETING SPACE
The meeting space is connected to the main lobby and sleeping room section by a wide passageway accessed only from the lobby level. Standing at the Birdcage facing the front door side of the hotel, walking forward across the lobby, and making a left turn just before going out the front door places you at the entrance to the passageway connecting the lobby and meeting space. Or if you are coming into the hotel through the front door, making a right turn immediately after passing the bell stand will place you at the entrance to this passageway.

Along both sides of the passageway are restaurants and shops. Walking toward the meeting space, the first thing on your left will be Smooth Java, a full-service coffee bar featuring Starbucks coffees; followed by Headwaters Lounge, which serves appetizers, salads, and sandwiches, as well as beverages; and finally the Banrai Sushi restaurant. The right side of the passageway as you walk toward the meeting space has a guest services counter where you can obtain tickets and transportation to various local attractions or arrange for an Enterprise rental car, followed by the hotel’s gift shop. Two food outlets have swapped places this year. First on your right is newly-expanded Mexican eatery Mi Casa Tequila Taqueria. Next up is Tobias Burgers & Brews, serving pub fare with a broad selection of handcrafted burgers and local microbrew beers.

After passing by the retail shops and eateries, you come to a large rotunda, which serves as the entryway to the hotel’s meeting space sometimes referred to as the “Convention Center.” Continuing straight ahead, crossing the Rotunda to the far side, you will find a wide, short flight of steps leading up to Level 2 of the meeting space. At the base of the steps to the right and the left are escalators and staircases leading down to Level 1 of the meeting space. The escalator and staircase on your right take you to the Panzacola-Sebastian wing of the meeting space on Level 1. All of our meetings and activities on Level 1 are in the Panzacola-Sebastian wing. The escalator and staircase on your left lead to the Gatlin wing of the Level 1 meeting space. A small escalator located to the right of the steps also leads up to Level 2 of the meeting space.

None of our meetings or activities, except the Host Committee Welcome Party on Friday night, takes place in the Gatlin wing. Should you go down that escalator or staircase on your left, you cannot get to our meeting space in the Panzacola-Sebastian wing except by coming back up to the Rotunda and taking the other escalator or staircase leading to the Panzacola-Sebastian wing.

With respect to the escalator and staircase, the staircase is located between the up escalator and the down escalator. A small elevator also serves the meeting space in the Panzacola-Sebastian wing on Level 1, the Rotunda, and the meeting space on Level 2. Please note that there is also a small elevator that
goes from Level 2 to the Rotunda and to the Gatlin wing on Level 1. This means that should you happen to take the Gatlin wing elevator from Level 2, you would need to get off at the Rotunda. Remember, if you end up in the Gatlin wing (either by taking the wrong elevator, the wrong staircase, or the wrong escalator), you need to return to the Rotunda to get to the Panzacola-Sebastian wing. Level 2 of the meeting space is also served by two short escalators going only between the Rotunda and Level 2—the down escalator being found near the small elevator serving the Panzacola-Sebastian wing, and the up escalator being found near the small elevator serving the Gatlin wing.

If you continue straight ahead after you reach the top of the short flight of steps leading to Level 2, you enter a corridor containing the ten Wekiwa meeting rooms. These rooms are along both sides of the corridor with 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the right, and 10, 9, 8, 7, and 6 on the left.

If at the top of the steps you were to turn left and continue walking until you cannot go farther and then turn right, you enter a corridor containing the eleven Suwannee meeting rooms. These rooms are along both sides of the corridor with 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 on the right side, and 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, and 16 on the left. There are restrooms just ahead of you before you make the right turn into the Suwannee meeting room corridor.

Also located on Level 2 are the St. John’s meeting rooms, but we do not use the St. John’s rooms for any of our meetings.

The General Sessions, the Board meeting, the Banquet, the Exhibit Hall and Independence Market, Registration and Preregistration, Resolutions Committee meeting, and a number of our other activities and meetings are located on Level 1 in the Panzacola-Sebastian wing. The Panzacola-Sebastian wing contains the Panzacola Ballroom and the Sebastian Ballroom—both of which divide up into many smaller meeting room sections. The names of the sections of the Panzacola Ballroom begin with F, G, or H. The sections of the Sebastian Ballroom begin with I, J, K, or L.

As you enter the Panzacola-Sebastian wing from the escalator, staircase, or small elevator you are entering an L-shaped passageway. As you continue walking straight ahead, you are walking along the short arm of the ‘L.’ The Panzacola meeting rooms F-4, F-3, F-2, and F-1 (in that order) will be on your left. There will be no rooms on your right. This short arm of the ‘L’ is about 200 feet long and ends at the Panzacola registration counter. (We are not using the Panzacola registration counter, but it is a good landmark to use to find the intersection of the long and short arms of the ‘L.’) Turning left at the Panzacola registration counter, you enter the very long (about 500 feet) arm of the ‘L.’ Along
the left side of the long arm of the ‘L’ passageway (also known as the Panzacola-Sebastian Pre-function area) will be entryways (in this order) to the Panzacola G and H rooms and the Sebastian I, J, K, and L rooms. Along the right side of the passageway are glass doors and windows to the outside of the hotel, restrooms, and the Sebastian registration counter. Preregistration on Tuesday, July 11, will be at the Sebastian registration counter. Registration on Tuesday, July 11 for those who have not preregistered, will be farther down the ‘L,’ beyond the Sebastian registration counter. Later in the week, all registration will be at the Sebastian registration counter. During much of the convention, the hotel plans to offer buffet-type fast food service (quick breakfasts, beverages, soups, sandwiches, salads, chips, and perhaps some hot entrées) in the Panzacola-Sebastian Pre-function area.

General Sessions will be held in Sebastian I and J. The Exhibit Hall and Independence Market will be in Sebastian K and L, which is the last section of the Sebastian Ballroom at the very far end of the 500-foot passageway. Doors across the far end of the passageway lead outside to the event parking lot. Exiting these doors and turning right will lead to another dog relief area.

As I bring this article to a close, I offer one final navigation tip. If after studying this material you remember only one thing—it should be this: To go to any meeting of any kind from inside the hotel you must get yourself to the Rotunda.

See you at the Rotunda!

Thank You.
The National Federation of the Blind acknowledges with gratitude our convention sponsors listed below. Their messages follow.

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UPS ad: Supporting great causes: a commitment that's as much a part of UPS as our brown trucks. UPS is proud to support the National Federation of the Blind and the National Convention. ups.com.

Vanda ad: Vanda Pharmaceuticals is dedicated to raising awareness of Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (Non-24) and supporting the blindness community. Non-24 is a rare circadian rhythm disorder affecting up to 70% of people who are totally blind. People living with Non-24 experience excessive daytime sleepiness and nighttime sleeplessness, which leads to impaired social and occupational functioning. This is due to the misalignment between the internal and master body clock and the 24-hour day.

Come visit us at our booth to learn about Non-24 and sign up for additional information! Call a health educator toll-free at 1-855-856-2424. 24 hours a day, every day.

Enhanced Vision/Freedom Scientific/Optelec/The Paciello Group ad: Convention Highlights: ElBraille 40 Windows 10 Notetaker with JAWS and Focus Blue
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Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP ad: Independence, opportunity, equality, success, empowerment, inclusion. Thank you to the National Federation of the Blind for allowing Brown, Goldstein & Levy to be part of your 75 plus years of breaking barriers. www.browngold.com.

HIMS ad: There’s a New Super-Notetaker on the Block! BrailleSense Polaris MINI. Full-featured, Google-certified, 20-cell Braille Notetaker—with HALF the Size & Weight!

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- Access to 1000’s of apps on the Google Play Store
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- 64 GB Flash Memory — 3 GB RAM
- Weighs in at LESS THAN 15 ounces!

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